

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE 3040 Biddle Road Medford, Oregon 97504 email address: orll0mb@or.blm.gov

IN REPLY REFER TO

1792(117) French Flat ACEC G6118(LM:bhk) January 17,2002

JAN 1 8 2002

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in the process of developing a management plan for its French Flat Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The French Flat area was designated an ACEC as a part of the Medford District's Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP already provides direction for certain kinds of management within the ACEC. The French Flat Management Plan will provide site-specific management direction for uses and issues unique to the ACEC. We would like your help to determine how to best manage this special area. As part of a scoping phase for this plan, we are interested in gathering information about how the local community values this ACEC.

French Flat ACEC encompasses a remnant of the Illinois Valley native grassland and pine-oak savannah. It lies to the west of Rockydale road and north of Waldo road. It is a fine example of native valley floor habitat that has remained relatively undisturbed. It was designated as an ACEC because of this habitat and because it harbors a variety of rare plant species. It appears that it is an area that is also extensively used for recreation. The BLM has already installed new gates and barriers along entrances to the ACEC to help protect these rare plants and their habitat.

We will be holding an open house on February 20,2002, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Josephine County Building at 102 S. Redwood Highway in Cave Junction. The purpose of this open house is to gather information on how the local community uses—this ACEC and how the area might be best managed to protect its special values. We would like to document issues and concerns you may have regarding such uses and any comments or suggestions for management of the ACEC in general. Tables will be set up with various BLM specialists on hand to record your input.

For questions on the meeting, please contact Linda Mazzu at (541) 770-2200. Thank you for your interest in BLM lands. My staff and I look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

Abbie Jossie

Field Manager

Pass Resource Area

